

## Three software tools for writers

Most people will use a word processor like Microsoft Word for all their writing. Personally I have found that to be quite an annoyance. Most word processors are designed for office and secretarial use. The fancy layout tools and the nifty formatting options are useful for final layout of documents that need to be printed, and for writing letters. They are not designed with the creative writer in mind.

I have discovered three tools which I have found extremely useful. I am afraid they are all for the Macintosh computer. But then, a creative person would probably not use anything else. So, if you use one of those machines designed by the evil empire ...

Real writers write quite a lot of 'supplementary' text which they need to keep track of. They can spend hours opening and closing word-processing documents to sift through their scrap heap before they find what they want (even with a nifty Macintosh search tool like 'spotlight'). In the process of writing a story, writers tend to create dozens or even hundreds of pages of notes, character bios, rewrites, reminders, and bits of research info. Organizing all that material within the linear structure of a traditional word processor can be quite insane ...

Software reviewed  
**MacJournal** by Mariner Software  
**Z-Write** by Stone Tablet Software  
**CopyWrite** by Bartas Technology

[read the whole story here](#)

**Writing Exercises.** Writing is like any other activity - like

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### [Launch of \*Lovers and Strangers - Revisited\* and \*25 Malaysian Short Stories\* New on the shelves](#)

## Laksmi Pamuntjak



**An evening of poetry, short stories, and discussion with Indonesian author Laksmi Pamuntjak** at Silverfish Books, 67-1 Jalan Telawi 3, Bangsar Baru, Kuala Lumpur at 6.30pm, Saturday, 10th June 2006.

Laksmi Pamuntjak is an acclaimed Indonesian author who has written for *Tempo* magazine, *The Jakarta Post*, the socioeconomic journal *Prisma*, and was the resident food columnist for *Djakarta!* magazine. She edited, translated and introduced *Goenawan Mohamad: Selected Poems* and is a cofounder of the bilingual bookstore Aksara, in Jakarta. Her book of poetry, *Ellipsis*, was chosen as one of the Books of the Year in 2005 by *The Herald UK*.

Laksmi will read from *Ellipsis* and her just-released book of short stories, *The Diary of R.S.*  
 (Please call us to inquire about the availability if the books.)

About *Ellipsis* (RM 25.00)

...An aesthetically intense and powerfully sensual poetry collection, in which the mess and fragility of human relationships is enmeshed with politics and "leaves of silences". - *The Herald UK*

religion. The poetry is attuned, meticulous, deft and the reader is transfigured by a "leaf of silences". - *The Herald UK*

About *The Diary of R.S* (RM 55.00)

The urban cinematic psychodramas of contemporary Jakarta which Pamuntjak creates draw on multiple cultural and societal referents and do not pander to cheap exoticism. The stories revolve around an artist, a painter of women, whom we meet only through the thoughts of his subjects. The stories are impressionistic and at times densely poetic, but are also healthily obsessed with the human minutiae of thought, sense, the political and the physical. In terms of Sanskrit poetics, to properly read these linked tales is to become a *rasik*, a lover. There is a sensual efflorescence reminiscent of the work of Patricia Duncker. These are vignettes; linked, dynamic portraits of whores, hairdressers, artists, housewives, workers, mothers; for like Pamuntjak's characters, reality is chimaeric, brief, intense, past.

**Admission is free. All welcome.**

Please RSVP Phek Chin/Vasantha - Tel: 228 448 37

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